

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-24 stand rejected.

I. REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Freed* (U.S. Patent No. 6,269,473). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections. Claims 1-24 have been cancelled and replaced by new claims 25-30. These claims are not taught or suggested by *Freed*.

II. CONCLUSION

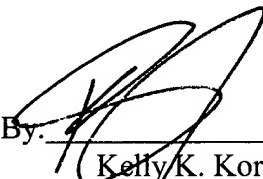
As a result of the foregoing, it is asserted by Applicants that the remaining Claims in the Application are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request an early allowance of such Claims.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner call Applicants' attorney at the below listed number if the Examiner believes that such a discussion would be helpful in resolving any remaining problems.

Respectfully submitted,

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